

City of Fairfax  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)  
February 12, 2015  
City Hall – Work Session Room

**PRAB Members Present**

Jon Stehle	Evie Ifantides
Michael Slawski	Janet Jaworski
Jane Albro	Brian Knapp
Robert M. Reinsel	Zinta Rodgers-Rickert
Michael Anderson	Harry Wilbur
Michael Breslin	Michael McCarty
Kirk Holley	

**Members Absent**

Jeff Ferrell

**Guests**

Scott Pierce, Fairfax Little League  
Leslie Herman, Parks & Recreation Department  
Joanna Ormesher, Parks & Recreation Department  
Michelle Veresink Richmond, Parks & Recreation Department

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm by Chairman Jon Stehle.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

No comments.

**3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Brian Knapp noted that he liked that the Mayor welcomed Michael Breslin to the Board.  
Robert M. Reinsel moved to approve, Evie Ifantides seconded. Minutes from the last meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2015 were approved by unanimous vote.

**4. Old Business**

**a) Budget Update**

Director Michael McCarty noted that he should receive an update on the budget next week. On February 24 the City Manager will be suggesting his budget. On March 5 the department will be presenting.

Chairman Stehle asked that PRAB members try to be there on March 5 (Thursday).

Knapp asked for a Senior Center presence since a main part of the budget is the Green Acres Feasibility Study and the ADA Study.

It begins at 7pm on March 5, but the Parks & Recreation presentation will probably be at 8:30pm or 9pm.

***\*\*Please note: due to inclement weather the budget presentation has been moved to Monday, March 9.\*\****

## **5. New Business**

### **a) Little League Providence Elementary Field #4 Proposed Improvements**

Stehle welcomed Scott Pierce from Fairfax Little League and explained that this was an opportunity for presentation and dialogue regarding potential improvements. Little League presents to PRAB and then School Board.

Pierce explained that Providence Field #4 has lights but had poor dirt conditions. Last year Little League paid \$22,000 to redo the whole field. Now the field is in excellent condition, but the dugouts are old. Water had been pooling and creating muddy situations. When the roof of the dugout was removed, there was no structure to it. New dugout was started in November 2014. Building was stopped in order to seek approvals. Little League would pay for all costs and doing all work. It could be finished in a long weekend.

Little League would like to add a 55' cage on 60' of land at the field. They have \$4,000 donated specifically for this use. It would just require 8 poles and proper concrete in terms of structure.

Leslie Herman stated that staff recommends that PRAB approves these improvements. She explained that they will have to get approval from the School Board and a building permit. Pierce will coordinate with Providence Elementary principal and Richard Wyant regarding field use.

Reinsel asked for clarification regarding responsibilities for maintenance, improvements and the process for transfer.

McCarty explained that the department would be in charge of dugout maintenance and would work with Fairfax Little League regarding batting cage maintenance.

#### ***Action:***

Knapp moved to approve the improvements. Rodgers-Rickert seconded.

#### ***Approved:***

Request for improvements is approved. No opposition.

### **b) OurParksOurFuture.com Discussion**

McCarty gave a tour of the site and gave an overview of the statistics regarding participants, traffic, and engagement. He highlighted the engagement is down because the Strategic Master Plan process is completed, but we have the tool for the next FY.

Breslin noted that he could encourage Fairfax High School students to join. McCarty displayed Facebook statistics, discussed online communication tools as well as paper, and discussed how people found out about the Strategic Master Plan through this ways and the HOAs.

Board members discussed using the tool in conjunction with other social media, including Twitter and Instagram.

Reinsel commented that it is difficult to engineer social engagement and asked about cost of platform.

McCarty responded that it is paid for and expires in June or July 2016.

Stehle explained that OurParksOurFuture.com gives us a safe, controlled dialogue space, and perhaps there are ways that we can continue to utilize it in the future.

## **6. Parks and Recreation Department Report**

### **a) Old Lee Highway**

McCarty explained that on February 3 there was a presentation by Wendy Sanford Block that looked at the old study and how we could move forward. This could affect the trail system, Van Dyck Park, Daniels Run, and Sherwood. This creates potential for multi-modal trails along Old Lee Highway.

Holley stressed the importance of this discussion, the “Great Streets” concept, and how it is a parks issue. This could be an opportunity to get transportation funds to improve parks and connecting Sherwood and Van Dyck back downtown to Old Town Square.

Harry Wilbur commented that this was an excellent idea but also stressed PRAB’s two other projects at the moment.

Janet Jaworski expressed that HOA have shown interest in the project.

Stehle commented that he hoped to see PRAB members at the Public Outreach meeting on March 19.

### **b) Joanna Ormesher**

- Spotlight on the Arts begins on April 17 and will be celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> year.
- Planning for World Police and Fire Games is coming together.
  - June 26-July 5
  - Cycling Criterium & Fireman’s Muster in the City
  - Memorandum of Understanding between the City and WPFPG.
  - Campers from City summer camp will be attending the games.
  - Opportunity for volunteers to work for City events and the volunteer form will be up on the City site soon.

Rodgers-Rickert asked about business outreach. Ormesher responded that she has been working with Nicole Hange and Economic Development to invite businesses to be involved.

Michael Breslin asked if there would be volunteer opportunities for teens.

Ormesher responded that there would be. Breslin said he can distribute information to the high school.

Stehle thanked Jo for her report and expressed his excitement about the name change and embracing the arts.

### **c) Leslie Herman**

- Chocolate Lovers brought in record crowds and sold more than \$52,000 in pogs. Grant from proceeds was given to the Lamb Center. The Pancake breakfast sold out twice. The Chocolate Challenge had great entries and the Historic Walk had a small crowd but was nice. They went through 5,000 cupcakes in three hours at Twin's Ace Hardware Construct a Cupcake. Businesses participated in the Coupon Book and 3,500 copies were printed. News Channel 4, WTOP, and the *Washington Post* all covered the event. Stehle commented on the diversity that was present during the Construct a Cupcake event.
- d) **Snyder Bid**  
McCarty explained that the Snyder bid closes at 3pm tomorrow. Six firms were present at pre-bid meeting. On February 24 a contract will go to City Council for Approval.
- e) **PRAB Code/Bylaws**  
McCarty explained that they are still being reviewed by the City's attorney. They should probably appear on a March work session and be approved in April.
- f) **Old Town Square**  
McCarty explained that the opening would be on April 18. Substantial completion by March 31 with punch out through April. It has been challenging because of the inclement weather. Details will be shared in the next *Leisure Times*. It will be a 10am ribbon cutting.
- g) **CAPRA**  
McCarty explained that staff have been working on the accreditation process and have been gathering information from various City departments.

## 7. Stakeholder Updates

- a) **School Board – Robert Reinsel**  
Nothing to report.
- b) **Planning Commission – Janet Jaworski**  
Planning Commission reviewed the NOVUS Fairfax Gateway Project on January 26, 2015 and the City Council will be discussing it on February 24. This project involves Kamp Washington where Brevin Drive intersects Route 50. Already \$100,000 proffers for Kutner Park and Westmore neighborhood parks. Stehle asked McCarty to provide guidance for proffer. McCarty said that the proffer language is broad and we can help shape it.
- c) **Senior Center – Jane Albro**  
The Flea Market event will take place on February 28 and the Appraisal Event on March 21.
- d) **Community Appearance Committee – Kirk Holley**  
Committee has decided to give the Community Appearance award to the Sherwood Community Center on March 10. Holley encouraged everyone to attend Tuesday's open session. Holley also discussed the need for a FTE arborist who would help determine plantings for the City and be an asset to increase value in the City. This would fulfill obligations as a Tree City and would protect money invested in trees. Public Works will put the position forward in their budget and sustainability committee with endorse with letter of support. Stehle encouraged the Board to think about the issue.

**e) Commission on the Arts – Harry Wilbur**

Wilbur explained that on April 30 the commission would honor an individual and business that have supported the arts. The commission is currently planning their involvement in the Fall for the Book festival for a second year. Old Town Hall Performance Series continues to offer varied, free programs. Tomorrow night there will be another performance. Wilbur shared that a recent federal analysis of arts and culture showed that arts and culture brought in \$698 billion last year and was responsible for 4.3% of all U.S. goods and services.

**f) NVRPA – Brian Knapp**

Knapp shared NOVA Parks brochures on Algonkian Regional Park, Aldie Mill Historic Park, and NVRPA Picnic Catering Services. He thanked everyone who attended the presentation of the PRAB Exemplary Service Award to Robert Lederer.

**10. Matters of the Members**

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert expressed her desire for a dog park.

Wilbur asked if maintenance would remain in Capital budget. Knapp expressed that they are working to move maintenance to the regular budget.

Breslin explained that 3 WWII veterans would be presenting at Fairfax High School.

Reinsel asked about the policy regarding taking photographs in parks.

McCarty explained that Fairfax County charges. Knapp said he does not think NOVA Parks do. McCarty explains that the county requires permits but we don't in the City.

***\*\*Please note: After the meeting, Knapp confirmed that NOVA Parks do not charge a fee for photographers in their parks, except for Meadowlark Botanical Garden.\*\****

**11. Adjournment**

Reinsel moved to end the meeting. Rodgers-Rickert seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.